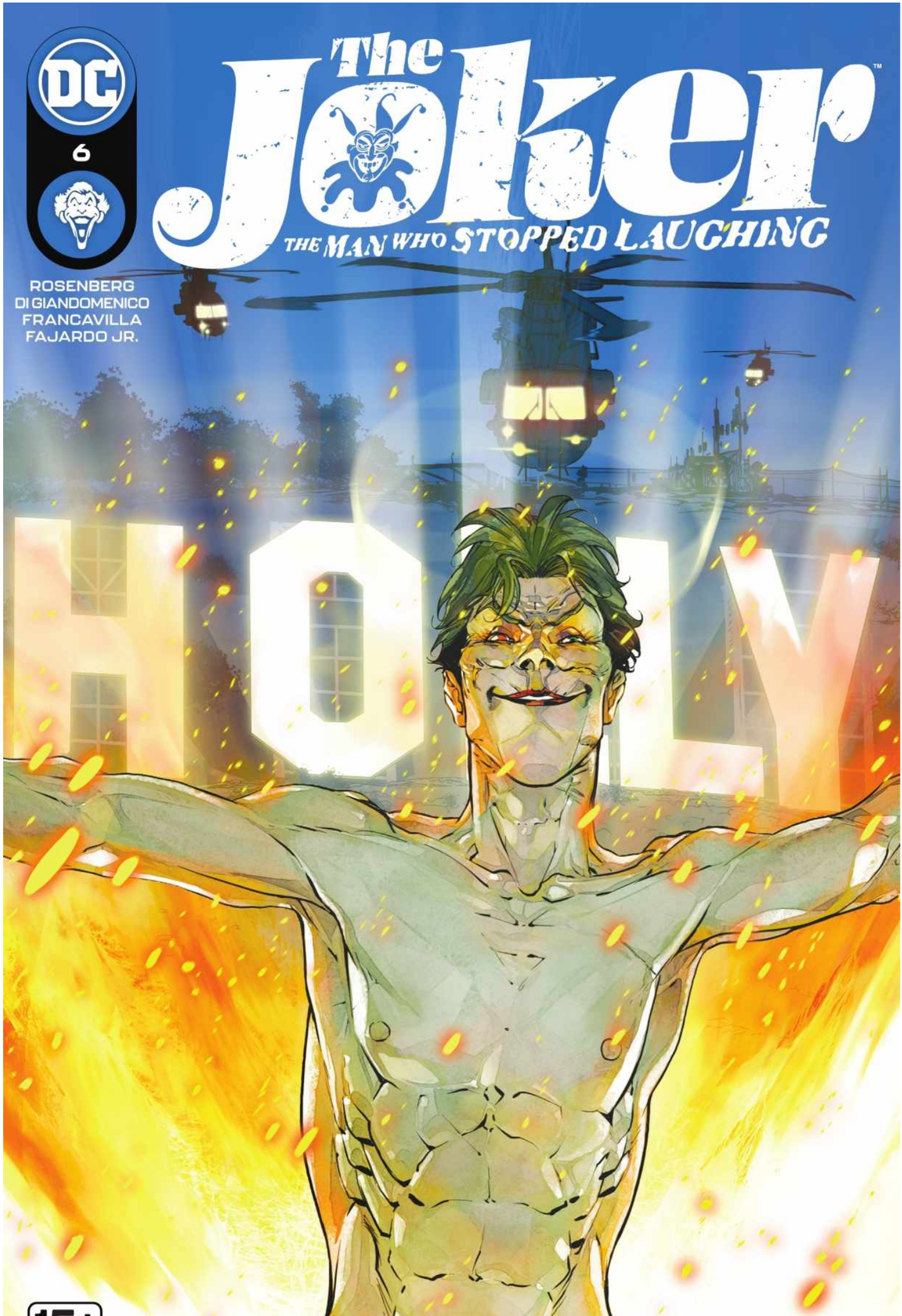
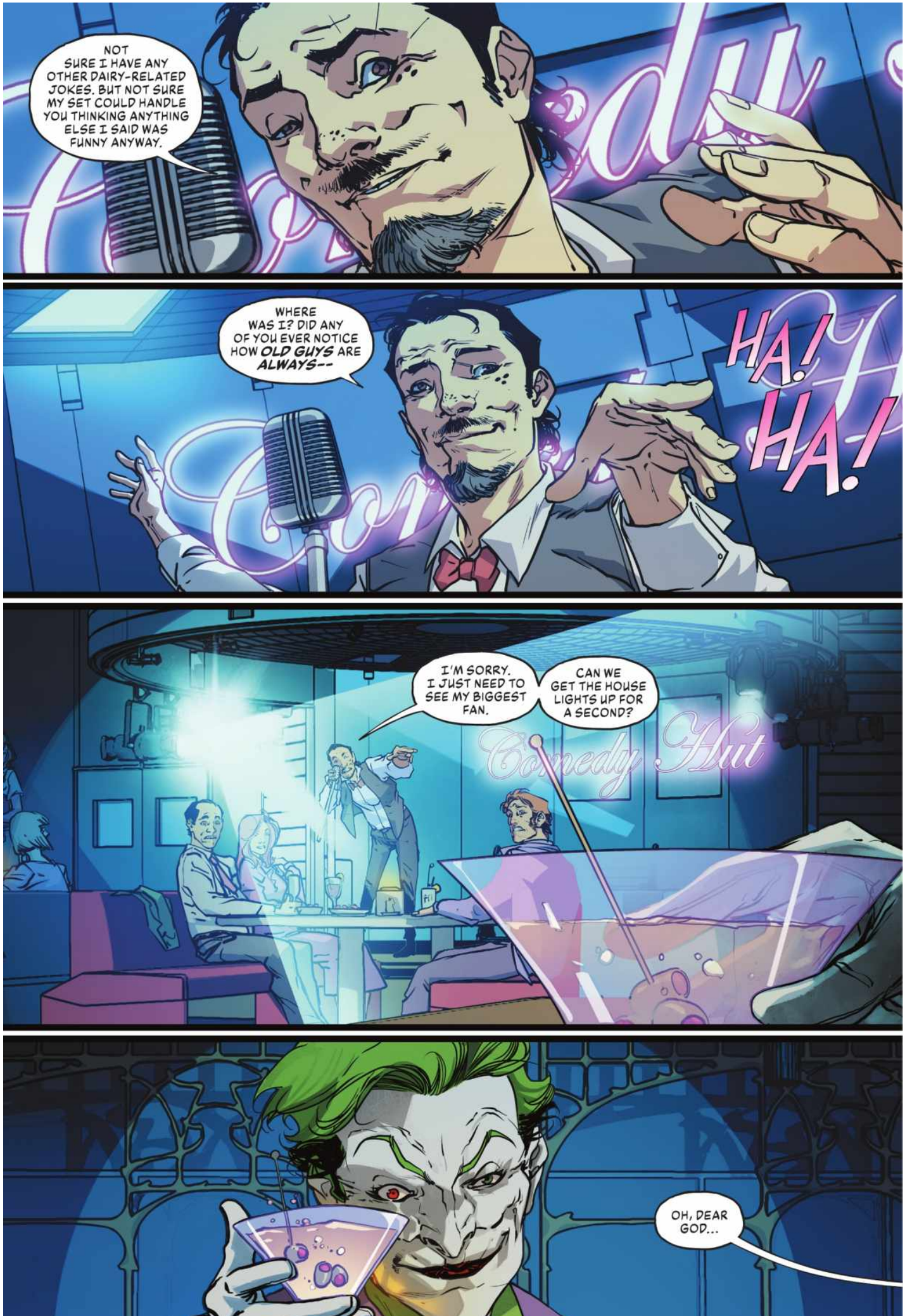

DC
6
The Joker
THE MAN WHO STOPPED LAUGHING
ROSENBERG
DI GIANDOMENICO
FRANCAVILLA
FAJARDO JR.
HOLY

Home is a heartbeat away.
LOST
SUPERMAN:
DC
March
© & ™ DC
Written by
CHRISTOPHER PRIEST
Art by

TOLUCA LAKE. L.A.
AND THEN THIS LITTLE GUY SAYS TO ME, "NO. THAT'S CHEESE ON THE CEILING."
HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!
WOW. SOMEONE LIKED THAT ONE. MOM? IS THAT YOU?
I TOLD YOU NOT TO COME TO MY SHOWS ANYMORE. YOU CREEP OUT THE PAYING CUSTOMERS.
Comedy Hut


NOT SURE I HAVE ANY OTHER DAIRY-RELATED JOKES. BUT NOT SURE MY SET COULD HANDLE YOU THINKING ANYTHING ELSE I SAID WAS FUNNY ANYWAY.
WHERE WAS I? DID ANY OF YOU EVER NOTICE HOW *OLD GUYS* ARE *ALWAYS--*
HA! HA!
I'M SORRY. I JUST NEED TO SEE MY BIGGEST FAN.
CAN WE GET THE HOUSE LIGHTS UP FOR A SECOND?
OH, DEAR GOD...

I'M SORRY... I...
YOU'RE DOING GREAT. DO A RIFF ON ME.
NO. I WOULD NEVER...
COME ON. I'M A BIG BOY.
WELL, YEAH. I ASSUME YOU CAN TAKE A JOKE...YOU ARE AT A COMEDY CLUB, RIGHT?
HA. I AM.
SO... UMM...YOU MOVED OUT TO L.A., HUH?
GUESS YOU HEARD THIS WAS A TOWN THAT LOVES MEDIOCRE WHITE GUYS.
AND NOBODY IS WHITER THAN YOU...
OR MORE MEDIOCRE.
HAHAHA. GOT ME!
IF I WERE YOU I'D HAVE LEFT GOTHAM TOO. THAT TOWN IS CRAZY.
MY BUDDY JUST MOVED TO GOTHAM WITH HIS FAMILY. HE SAID PICKING A NEIGHBORHOOD TO LIVE IN WAS THE HARDEST. YOU WANT TO BE CLOSE TO YOUR JOB. YOU WANT TO BE NEAR GOOD SCHOOLS.
YOU WANT TO MAKE SURE YOUR LOCAL CRIME BOSS IS FROM A CHILDREN'S BOOK YOU'VE EVEN HEARD OF.
HA! SO TRUE!
HE ENDED UP HAVING TO PAY PROTECTION MONEY TO TWO GUYS WHO DRESS UP LIKE FROG AND TOAD ARE FRIENDS. THEY DO DRIVE-BYS ON A TANDEM BIKE.
BUT SERIOUSLY, YOU WERE A BIG DEAL THERE. YOU RULED THAT TOWN WITH YOUR OWN PERSONAL ARMY, RIGHT? MUST HAVE BEEN SO HARD TO MOVE OUT HERE AND START OVER.
OR DID YOU JUST GOOGLE "WHAT CITY HAS THE MOST METH AND UNEMPLOYED CLOWNS?"
HEHEHE. IT WAS.
HA!

"HEY SIRI, DOES LOS ANGELES HAVE A MAN IN A GIANT BAT COSTUME?"

I-I WAS JUST KIDDING. I...I DON'T LIKE THAT GUY. HE SEEMS LIKE A REAL NUT...LET'S TALK ABOUT SOMEONE ELSE, OKAY?
I CAN TALK ABOUT SUPERMAN.
EVERYONE LIKES HIM, RIGHT...?
OH, GOD. HE'S KICKED YOUR ASS TOO, HASN'T HE?

YES. YES HE HAS.
SIZZ
AAAHH!

HE'LL BE HERE ALL WEEK, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.
AND DON'T FORGET TO TIP OVER YOUR WAITRESS. GOOD.

THERE YA ARE, BOSS! WE'VE BEEN LOOKING EVERYWHERE FOR YOU.
WE SHOULD GET A MOVE ON.
EXIT

YOUR AD HERE
GRIFFITH PARK.
TWENTY MINUTES LATER.

I THINK WE'RE GOING THE WRONG WAY, BOSS.
I JUST NEED TO MAKE A QUICK STOP, MR. WAFFLES.
BUT BOSS, YER FLIGHT TO GOTHAM--

IT'S MY PLANE. I THINK THEY'LL WAIT FOR ME.
THEY WILL WAIT FOR ME, RIGHT?

THIS WILL BE SO FAST. DON'T WORRY SO MUCH.
GRRAR

UMM... WHAT'S IN THE BACK OF THE VAN?
OH. SOME STUFF.

THE THING YOU NEED TO DO IS *HERE?*
L.A. HAS SUCH GREAT NATURE. WE DIDN'T TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT. *YOU* ALWAYS WANTED TO GO TO THE THEME PARKS.
I LIKE RIDES.
I THOUGHT WE WERE GOING TO THE AIRPORT.
BOSS WANTS TO LOOK AT A TREE FIRST.
COOL. *WHY?*
GOTHAM USED TO BE A SWAMP. AND THE ARKHAMS AND THE WAYNES AND THE COBBLEPOTS ALL THOUGHT, "YOU KNOW WHAT'S NICER THAN A NICE SWAMP? A DEAD, LIFELESS CITY FULL OF BORING, LIFELESS PEOPLE."
GRRR
AND MAYBE THEY WERE RIGHT. THE CITY HAS ITS CHARM. BUT WE DON'T HAVE ANYTHING LIKE THIS IN GOTHAM.
THERE'S TREES IN GOTHAM, BOSS.
YES, YES. THERE ARE TREES IN GOTHAM. BUT NO *NATURE.*
TAKE IT IN, BOYS.

THE OBSERVATORY.
TWENTY MINUTES LATER.

SMUGGLES DIDN'T MAKE IT, BOSS.
SHAME. HE'S REALLY MISSING A LOVELY SUNSET. I WARNED YOU ALL ABOUT PLAYING WITH THOSE CATS.
YOU ACTUALLY DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING TO US.

BE THAT AS IT MAY, CAN WE NOT JUST ENJOY THE VIEW IN PEACE? IT'S WHAT HE WOULD HAVE WANTED. PROBABLY. BUT DON'T YOU JUST FEEL LIKE JAMES DEAN UP HERE?
THE SAUSAGE GUY?
YES.
SURE, BOSS. BUT WE REALLY NEED TO GET TO THE AIRPORT--

RELAX, WAFFLES. AREN'T YOU GOING TO MISS IT HERE? THE BEACHES. THE SUN. THE SURPRISINGLY GOOD APPROXIMATION OF CULTURE.
GLAMOROUS MOVIE STARS. PATHETIC CRIME BOSSES. NO COSTUMED VIGILANTES. BUT THE CITY NEVER PROPERLY FEARED ME.
SO NOW THIS HAS TO HAPPEN.
SHHH.

I LOVE L.A.!

I'M ONE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS MEN OF ALL TIME. I KILLED CRIME BOSSES ALL OVER THE COUNTRY. I TOOK OVER THIS CITY'S UNDERWORLD IN A MATTER OF DAYS. AND WHAT?
NO CAPES. NO COPS. NOTHING. THIS CITY DIDN'T RESPECT ME. THEY BARELY TRIED TO STOP ME. SO, AS MY PARTING GIFT, I GAVE THEM CHAOS.
I BLEW UP SOME POLICE STATIONS.

THE WHOLE CITY IS GOING TO BE SHUT DOWN. I DON'T KNOW IF WE'RE GOING TO MAKE IT TO THE AIRPORT IN TIME.
YOU WORRY TOO MUCH, WAFFLES. WE'LL BE IN BURBANK IN FIFTEEN MINUTES.
BUT BOSS...YOUR PLANE IS AT L.A.X.

L.A.X.?! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO ME?!

L.A.X.... WHY?
DID IT
MAYBE TRAFFIC WON'T BE SO BAD. AND LOOK AT THE BRIGHT SIDE: NOBODY KNOWS YOU DID THIS, SO THEY WON'T BE LOOKING FOR
WE'LL BE BACK IN

GOTHAM.
GUARD!
GUARD!
THIS LUNATIC ASSAULTED ME!
THAT WASN'T YOU YELLING HOW YOU WERE GOING TO BEAT HIS #$@ FOR THE LAST HALF HOUR?
YOU TWO PLAY NICE. WE GOT BIGGER PROBLEMS.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
YOUR LUCKY DAY, SMART GUY. THAT CLOWN YOU CONFESSED TO KILLING? TURNS OUT HE AIN'T SO DEAD YET.
BUT HE WILL BE WHEN LAPD FIND HIM.

MELROSE HILL. L.A.
WHAT IS HAPPENING?
YOU ATTACKED THE CITY AND KILLED HALF THE COPS.
I DOUBT I GOT HALF OF THEM.
IT'S CHAOS.
THIS CITY STARTS TO GET FUN JUST AS I LEAVE.

DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT WE HAVE TO HURRY?
I CAN'T RUN THEM OVER, BOSS.
WHY NOT?
FINE. I'LL GET 'EM TO MOVE.
THIS SHOULD DO IT.
ALL OF YOU NEED TO MOVE THIS RIOT TO THE SIDEWALK NOW.
BLAM!
T-KLHAK
BLAM!
OH. THAT WASN'T SO BRIGHT.
HA! HA! HA!

BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WHILE WE ALL APPRECIATE YOUR ENTHUSIASM FOR GOOD OLD-FASHIONED MOB RULE, I'M AFRAID WE HAVE TO EXCUSE OURSELVES. FOR YOU SEE, I HAVE A FLIGHT TO CATCH.
AND I DON'T TELL YOU THIS TO TRY TO DRUM UP SYMPATHY, BUT IT'S OUT OF L.A.X. THE HORROR.
GO BACK TO GOTHAM, CLOWN!

HA!
WUP WUP WUP
YES! YES!
WHERE WAS ALL THIS EXCITEMENT BEFORE?!

BOSS, THE COPS!
OH, GOOD. AS FUN AS THIS IS, IT IS STARTING TO GET A LITTLE OUT OF HAND.

NO, BOSS! YOU GOTTA GO.
THEY'LL KILL YOU ON SIGHT. EVERYONE IN THE WORLD IS HUNTIN' FOR THE JOKER NOW!

UNDER GOTHAM.
SICK MAN MUST EAT.
GRUNDY KEEP YOU ALIVE.

HOLLYWOOD.
TWENTY MINUTES LATER.
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
EXCUSE ME, DERELICT.
HUFF
THE WHOLE CITY IS GOING UP IN FLAMES.
HUFF
WHY IS EVERYONE HERE SO CALM?
THIS IS HOLLYWOOD, MAN. NOBODY CARES ABOUT THAT STUFF HERE.
FAIR ENOUGH.
I MIGHT STILL HAVE TIME TO GET TO THE AIRPORT.
WHY IS IT SO DAMN HARD TO GET A CAB IN THIS GODFORSAKEN CITY?
USE AN APP LIKE A NORMAL PERSON, BRO.
I DON'T HAVE A @*#$%*#& CELL PHONE, YOU TROGLODYTE.
BAR

FINALLY.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
I HAVE TO GET TO THE AIRPORT. THE BAD ONE. I HAVE A PRIVATE PLANE WAITING FOR ME, BUT I'M WORRIED THEY'RE GOING TO CLOSE DOWN--
HIGHWAYS ARE ALL CLOSED. IT'S GOING TO TAKE A LONG TIME. YOU CAN PAY?
MONEY? NO. BUT I'M VERY FAMOUS, AND YOU CAN TELL EVERYONE ABOUT HOW YOU GAVE A RIDE TO--
SO RUDE!
AND WHERE THE HELL AM I SUPPOSED TO GET MONEY, ANYWAY?
SKREEEE
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE COME HERE, CLOWN.
YOU! HOW DID YOU FIND ME?

FIND YOU? YOU'RE IN MY AREA.
EVERYTHING EAST OF VINE IS MINE. EVEN THOSE DRUNK BASTARDS FREDDY AND JASON KNOW THAT.

YOU WANT TO WORK THIS AREA, YOU WORK FOR ME, OKAY? WE'LL DO GROUP RATES, BUT IT'S SEVENTY/THIRTY MINE.
GOT IT?
...NOT REALLY.

EXCUSE ME? CAN WE GET A PICTURE WITH YOU?
OF COURSE, CITIZEN. IT'S TWENTY DOLLARS FOR BOTH OF US.

WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE TO GET SPIDER-MAN INSTEAD OF CLOWN-MAN? MY WIFE LOVES HIM.
SORRY. HE'S IN REHAB.

SAY "JUSTICE!"
CLICK
JUSTICE!
NO.
WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE TO GET ANOTHER ONE WHERE IT LOOKS LIKE YOU TWO ARE FIGHTING OVER MY WIFE?
SURE THING. ADDITIONAL SHOTS ARE TEN DOLLARS.
THIS GOOD?
CLOWN-MAN LOOKS WRONG. HE SHOULD BE PUTTING UP A FIGHT OR CRYING OR SOMETHING.
HOW'S THIS?
PERFECT.
SAY "CAB FARE!"

AAAH!
YOU FOLKS HAVE A LOVELY VACATION HERE. MAKE SURE TO VISIT THE HUNTINGTON GARDENS IF YOU HAVE THE TIME. THEY'RE STUNNING.

NOW WHERE IS THAT TAXI? I HAVE TO GO.

YOU NEVER SHOULD HAVE COME TO L.A., JOKER.
THE JOKER: THE MAN WHO STOPPED LAUGHING
MATTHEW ROSENBERG WRITER
CARMINE DI GIANDOMENICO ARTIST
ARIF PRIANTO COLORS TOM NAPOLITANO LETTERS
CARMINE DI GIANDOMENICO COVER
LEE BERMEJO, JEFF SPOKES, AND KENDRICK KUNKKA LIM VARIANT COVERS
DAVE WIELGOSZ ASSOCIATE EDITOR
BEN ABERNATHY EDITOR
THAT'S WHAT I KEEP SAYING... STRANGE RED LADY.
NEXT:

THE Joker
LOOK AT THIS HARDWORKING JOE, HEADING HOME AFTER A DAY OF HARD WORK. COULD THIS REALLY BE...
WHY, THIS IS RALPH--
--A VETERAN EMPLOYEE OF HALY'S CIRCUS! HE SPENDS HIS DAYS BRINGING JOY AND ENTERTAINING CHILDREN AS HE GAMBOLS AND CAVORTS UNDER THE BIG TOP!
HE COULDN'T POSSIBLY BE THE CLOWN PRINCE OF CRIME...RIGHT?
STORY: RYAN CADY & MATTHEW ROSENBERG
ART: WILL ROBSON
COLORS: HI-FI
LETTERING: TOM NAPOLITANO
EDITING: DAVE WIELGOSZ
THE JOKER LAST VISITED SUBURBIA WHEN PLOTTING TO CAUSE THE '08 HOUSING CRISIS, WAY BACK IN

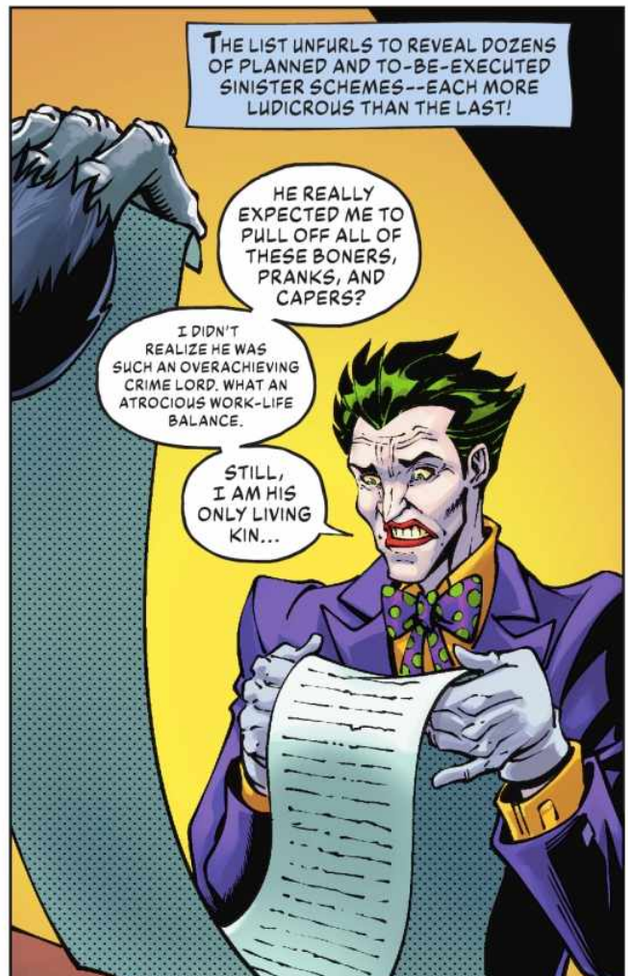
HONEY, I'M HOME!
WHY DON'T I SMELL DINNER COOKING?
WHAT-- WHAT--
THROWN INTO A MACHO PANIC BY THIS SUDDEN TRESPASS, RALPH RUSHES TO HIS FAMILY'S DEFENSE!
LEAVE MY FAMILY ALONE, YOU FILTHY ANIMALS!
JACKANAPES RESENT THAT REMARK.

I'LL KILL YOU!
W-WAIT--!
Ghk...yoUR... BrOthER...
HUH?
I'VE FISTFOUGHT A GORILLA BEFORE, AND I'LL DO IT AGAIN.
WE NOT HERE TO FIGHT. YOUR BROTHER SEND US.
MY BROTHER....?
"AHH YES, MY TWIN BROTHER, EDWARD! LAST TIME WE TALKED, HE WAS IN GOTHAM CITY, CALLING HIMSELF 'THE JOKER.'
"WHATEVER HAPPENED TO DEAR OLD EDWARD?"
EDWARD
RALPH

YOUR BROTHER DEAD.
"JOKER TRY TO RIDE MAN-BAT LIKE HORSE.
POLICE
"MAN-BAT CONSIDER THIS UNDIGNIFIED.
"MAN-BAT EAT JOKER."
BOOHOO!
BOO HOO HOO
SNIFF SNIFF
FUNERAL TOMORROW AFTERNOON.
MAYBE NOW TWO FOR ONE.
I MUST ATTEND!
BUT GOTHAM CITY IS FAR TOO DANGEROUS A PLACE FOR MY FRAGILE FAMILY. WAIT FOR ME, MY DARLINGS.
FAREWELL FOR NOW!

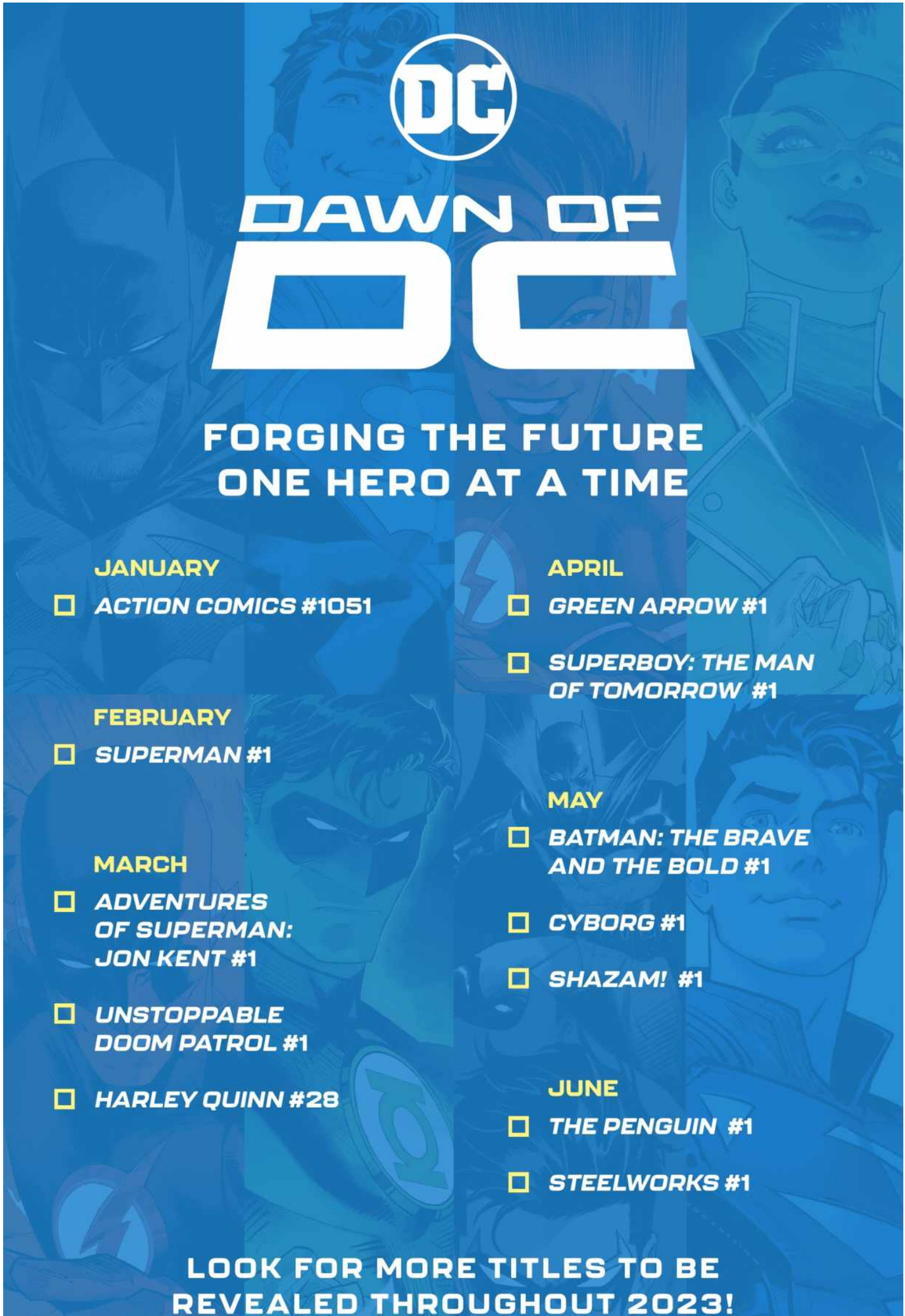
THE NEXT DAY.
OH, EDWARD, HOW WE HARDLY KNEW YE!

FOLLOWING THE SERVICE, RALPH PREPARES FOR THE READING OF THE WILL--WHERE THE BIGGEST SHOCK IS YET TO COME?
JACKANAPES EXECUTOR OF ESTATE.
"LASTLY, IT IS MY DYING WISH THAT MY TWIN BROTHER, RALPH, CONCLUDE MY UNFINISHED BUSINESS--SEE APPENDIX B."
WHY, HE DIDN'T LEAVE ME A RED CENT!

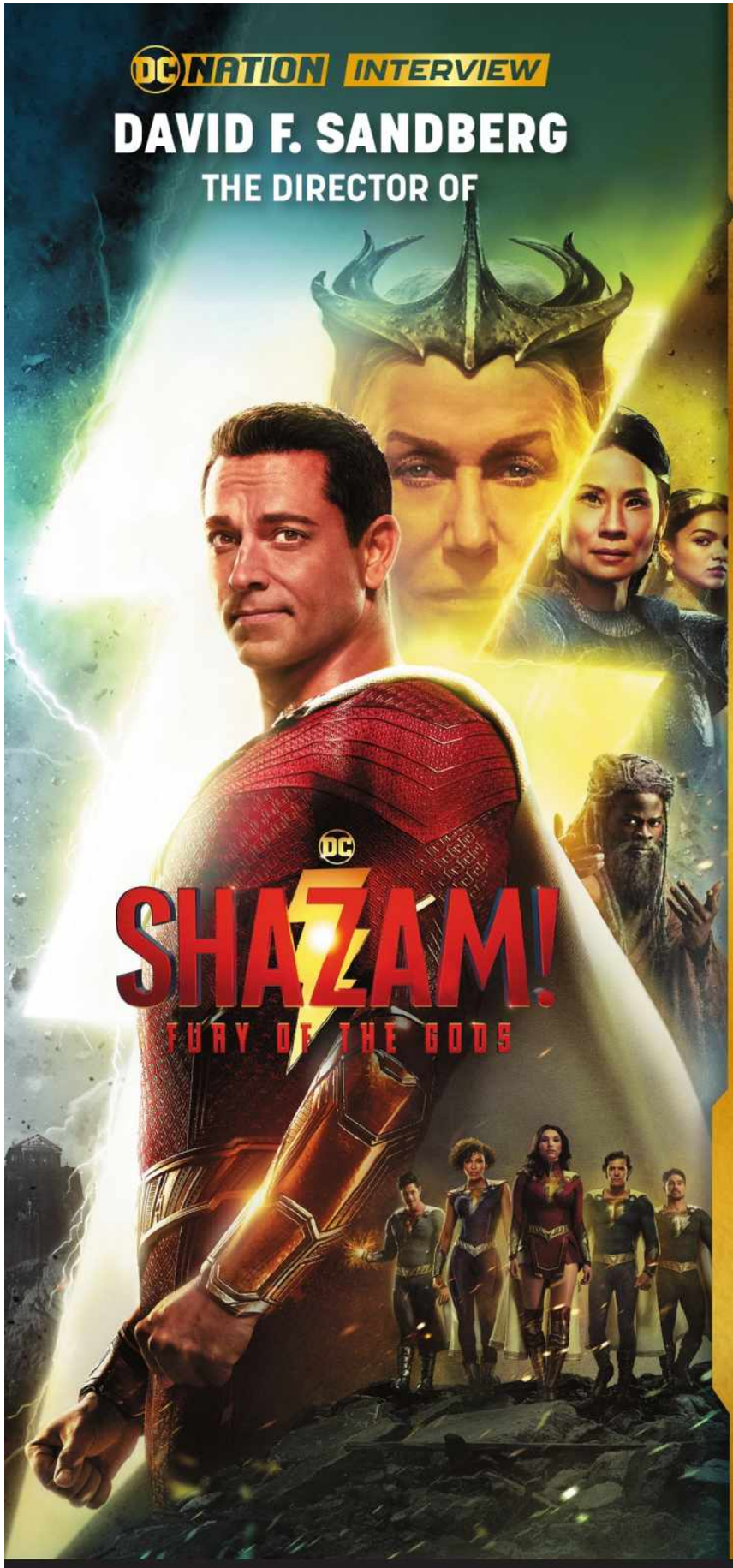

THE LIST UNFURLS TO REVEAL DOZENS OF PLANNED AND TO-BE-EXECUTED SINISTER SCHEMES--EACH MORE LUDICROUS THAN THE LAST!
HE REALLY EXPECTED ME TO PULL OFF ALL OF THESE BONERS, PRANKS, AND CAPERS?
I DIDN'T REALIZE HE WAS SUCH AN OVERACHIEVING CRIME LORD. WHAT AN ATROCIOUS WORK-LIFE BALANCE.
STILL, I AM HIS ONLY LIVING KIN...

AND SO, DETERMINED TO DO RIGHT BY HIS DEARLY DEPARTED BROTHER, RALPH GETS TO WORK!
(LUCKILY, HE HAS A DEGREE IN CLOWNING FROM KEYSTONE CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE.)
TOUCHDOWN, BABY!
THOUGH HE SOON DISCOVERS BEING THE JOKER ISN'T ALL FUN AND GAMES--
THE JIG IS UP!
EASTER IS RUINED!
--RALPH ALWAYS TRIES HIS LEVEL BEST.
TONIGHT'S TRAGEDY--THE RED BRIEFS HAVE BEEN BURGLED! WILL SUPERMAN BE GOING COMMANDO FROM NOW ON?
HE RISKS LIFE AND LIMB ENACTING THE PLANS OF HIS RECENTLY PASSED TWIN--
--EVEN GETTING VENGEANCE AGAINST THAT RUINOUS RODENT, MAN-BAT!
THE KOOKY CRIME SPREE CULMINATES, AT LAST, WITH THE TESTAMENT'S FINAL OBLIGATION...
...TO THROW A PARADE FOR THE JOKER!
JOKER

HIS BROTHER'S LAST WISHES ACKNOWLEGED, OUR NOVEL KNAVE CAN FINALLY END HIS BRIEF TENURE AS THE CROWN PRINCE OF CRIME!
UNLESS...
...YES, BROTHER, I SHALL BECOME A--
RALPH?
IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THE PRANKS WEREN'T THE POINT?
COULD IT BE THAT EDWARD'S POSTHUMOUS PLAN WAS NOT TO COMPLETE HIS LEGACY--
--BUT TO ENSURE IT LIVES ON?
LIST IS DONE.
YOU RETURN TO OVERSIMPLIFIED PASTICHE OF SURBURBAN LIFE?
NO... NO, I THINK I'M BEGINNING TO LIKE THIS WORK.
I THINK I'LL STICK AROUND AWHILE.
AND ANOTHER THING, CHUM--
CALL ME JOKER.
THE END!


DC
DAWN OF
DC
FORGING THE FUTURE
ONE HERO AT A TIME
JANUARY
ACTION COMICS #1051
FEBRUARY
SUPERMAN #1
MARCH
ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN: JON KENT #1
UNSTOPPABLE DOOM PATROL #1
HARLEY QUINN #28
APRIL
GREEN ARROW #1
SUPERBOY: THE MAN OF TOMORROW #1
MAY
BATMAN: THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD #1
CYBORG #1
SHAZAM! #1
JUNE
THE PENGUIN #1
STEELWORKS #1
LOOK FOR MORE TITLES TO BE REVEALED THROUGHOUT 2023!

KNEEL BEFORE THE GODS OF THE DC UNIVERSE!
DC UNIVERSE
LAZARUS
PLANET
REVENGE OF THE GODS
© & ™ DC
Written by
G. WILLOW WILSON,
BECKY CLOONAN, AND
MICHAEL CONRAD
Art by
CIAN TORMEY AND
ALITHA MARTINEZ
Covers by
4 ISSUES
TWICE MONTHLY



What's the status of the Shazam family when this film starts?

In the first movie, the whole family got powers. When we catch up with them, it's been a couple of years and they've all been heroes for a little while. It hasn't been all great, though. They have problems working together and balancing their everyday lives with being superheroes. Billy also finally found the family he'd been searching for in the first movie. He's really struggling with keeping them all together, because they all have different wants and needs.

How does *Shazam! Fury of the Gods* build on what was set up in the first film?

One of the most exciting aspects of the second film was to go huge, have bigger stakes and action, but still keep that intimate family feel of the first film.

The fun part about making a bigger Shazam movie is the scope of the sets. The Rock of Eternity makes a return in a new way, because the kids have taken it over, added arcade machines and TVs, and made it look really cool. Also, in the first film we got a glimpse of the Room of Doors. Now we've really expanded it into a huge space with millions of doors, all going to different dimensions, planets, and realities.

Who are the new villains, the Daughters of Atlas?

We felt that a superhero in a movie is only as good as their villains...and we have some of the best ones. We wanted to aim high, and our goal was to get someone like Helen Mirren. So, we offered it to her, and to our surprise, she said yes right away. It was a dream come true. Then we went out to Lucy Liu, who also said yes. She's someone I've wanted to work with forever.

Why do you think people love the Shazam family?

I think [the 2019 film] *Shazam!* was as popular as it was because it has a lot of heart and humor, and it was something a little bit different from other superhero films. It was a very sincere joy showcased in the film and with wish fulfillment in a very grounded way that was still fantastical.

SHAZAM!
FURY OF THE GODS

IN THEATERS BEGINNING MARCH 17!

DC COMICS MARIE JAVINS Editor-in-Chief, DC Comics ANNE DePIES Senior VP – General Manager JIM LEE Publisher & Chief Creative Officer DON FALLETTI VP – Manufacturing Operations & Workflow Management LAWRENCE GANEM VP – Talent Services ALISON GILL Senior VP – Manufacturing & Operations JEFFREY KAUFMAN VP – Editorial Strategy & Programming NICK J. NAPOLITANO VP – Manufacturing Administration & Design NANCY SPEARS VP – Revenue

THE JOKER: THE MAN WHO STOPPED LAUGHING 6. May, 2023. Published monthly by DC Comics, 4000 Warner Blvd., Bldg. 700, 2nd Floor, Burbank, CA 91522. GST # is R125921072. Copyright © 2023 DC Comics. All Rights Reserved. All characters featured in this issue, the distinctive likenesses thereof, and related elements are trademarks of DC Comics. The stories, characters, and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. DC Comics does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories, or artwork. For Advertising and Custom Publishing contact dccomicsadvertising@dccomics.com. For details on DC Comics Ratings, visit dc.com/ratings.

The Last Kryptonian-DCP